

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of removing an oil filter from a filter cap, the oil filter being configured to remove impurities from oil upon passage of the oil through the oil filter, comprising the steps of:

moving an actuator which extends through a side wall of said filter cap so as to exert a force on said oil filter; and

moving said oil filter relative to said side wall in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein:

said filter cap has a filter chamber defined therein,

said oil filter is positioned in said filter chamber,

said actuator comprises a detent button having a first end which is positioned in said filter chamber and a ~~said~~ second end which extends out of ~~said~~ an opening defined in said side wall, and

said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said detent button so as to exert said force on said oil filter with said detent button.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said step of moving said oil filter comprises ejecting said oil filter from said filter chamber in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter by said detent button.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said filter cap has a filter retainer secured thereto, further comprising the step of:

moving said filter retainer relative to said side wall from a retention position in which said filter retainer retains said oil filter to a release position in which said oil filter is movable relative to said filter cap in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13,~~ A method of removing an oil filter from a filter cap, said oil filter having a post extending therefrom, said filter cap having a plurality of spring arms secured thereto, comprising the steps of:

moving an actuator which extends through a side wall of said filter cap so as to exert a force on said oil filter;

moving said oil filter relative to said side wall in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter; and

~~wherein (i) said filter cap has a plurality of spring arms secured thereto, and (ii) said oil filter has a post extending therefrom, further comprising the step of:~~

moving each of said plurality of spring arms from a retention position in which said plurality of spring arms cooperate to retain said post to a release position in which said post is movable relative to said filter cap in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said actuator into contact with said post so as to exert said force on said post.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13,~~ A method of removing an oil filter from a filter cap, said oil filter having a post extending therefrom, said filter cap having

a plurality of spring arms secured thereto, said post having a spheroid-shaped member defined therein, comprising the steps of:

moving an actuator which extends through a side wall of said filter cap so as to exert a force on said oil filter;

moving said oil filter relative to said side wall in response to said force being exerted on said oil filter;

~~wherein (i) said filter cap has a plurality of spring arms secured thereto, (ii) said oil filter has a post extending therefrom, and (iii) said post has a spheroid-shaped member defined therein, further comprising the steps of:~~

urging said spheroid-shaped member into contact with each of said plurality of spring arms; and

moving each of said plurality of spring arms from a retention position in which said plurality of spring arms cooperate to retain said spheroid-shaped member to a release position in which said post is movable relative to said filter cap in response to said urging step.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said actuator into contact with said spheroid-shaped member so as to exert said force on said spheroid-shaped member.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said urging step comprises urging said spheroid-shaped member into contact with each of said plurality of spring arms in response to movement of said actuator into contact with said spheroid-shaped member.

22.-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein:
said oil filter has a post extending therefrom;

said post has a spheroid-shaped member defined therein; and
said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said actuator against said spheroid-shaped member so as to exert said force on said spheroid-shaped member.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein:
said actuator comprises a detent button; and
said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said detent button against said spheroid-shaped member.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein:
said detent button comprises a concave surface;
said spheroid-shaped member comprises a convex surface; and
said step of moving said detent button comprises moving said concave surface against said convex surface.

27. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein:
said oil filter has a post extending therefrom;
said post has a spheroid-shaped member defined therein; and
said step of moving said filter retainer comprises moving said filter retainer relative to said side wall from the retention position in which said filter retainer retains said spheroid-shaped member to the release position in which said spheroid-shaped member is movable relative to said filter cap in response to said force being exerted on said spheroid-shaped member.

28. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein:
said actuator comprises a detent button; and

said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said detent button against a spring.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of said spring acting against a shoulder of said detent button so as to urge said shoulder away from said oil filter into contact with said side wall.

30. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said actuator comprises a detent button, further comprising the step of establishing a seal around said detent button with an O-ring.

31. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein:
said actuator comprises a threadless detent button; and
said step of moving said actuator comprises moving said threadless detent button through an opening defined in said side wall.